GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2866
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
RIVER EROSION IN WEST BENGAL
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI;PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures to check river erosion in several districts of West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether his ministry has received any scheme from West Bengal Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Flood Management including river erosion being a state subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the State Government . The Central Government renders assistance which are technical catalytical and promotional in nature.

State Government of West Bengal have intimated that they have taken a number of measures to check erosion in several districts of West Bengal by taking up these works through the State Planfund and other sources as per availability and criticality of the erosion problem.

Planning Commision had constituted an Expert Committeein 1996 which had suggested various short term and long term anti-erosion measures in West Bengal. To enable the State Goveernment to take up proritised schemes, an additional fund of Rs. 30.00 crore was released by the Planning Commission in 1998 to the State Government. The State Government has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 78.57 croe upto March, 2002 on schemes relating to anti-erosion measures. The Farakka Barrage Project Authority (FBPA) has also incurred an expenditure of Rs. 10.4 crore on anti erosion works on upstream and downstream of Farakka Barrage.

Subsequently with a view to provide further financial assistance to the Ganga basin States including West Bengal, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) was approved bythe Government of India in January 2001, wherein 4 schemes submitted by Government of West Bengal were included. In order to take up the above four schemes, the Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 22.15 croe to the Government of West Bengal. The above CSS will also continue during 10th Five Year Plan.

(b) & (c) In addition to above, the Ganga Flood ControlCommission (GFCC) had cleared nine number of schemes received from Government of West Bengal during the year 2001-02 and five number of schemes were cleared during 2002-03. Further, 14 number of schemes received from the State Government were examined and necessary comments have been furnished to the State Government, replies to which are awaited. Two number of schemes were recently received in GFCC for technical examination.